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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00526 151727Z

41
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 PM-04 MMO-01 SS-15 SP-02 /042 W
---------- 016641
R 151704Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7719

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 0526

STADIS//////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EI, MILI
SUBJECT: DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE

REF: STATE 048730

1. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO CLOSE THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE IN DUBLIN. I THINK THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DAO DUBLIN AND THE FIVE OTHER DATT OFFICES NAMED IN THE MILITARY MESSAGE WHICH ANNOUNCED THE CLOSINGS.

2. OUR OWN U.S. INTERESTS AND POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR IRELAND (1975) MAKE SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO CULTIVATING INCREASING IRISH PARTICIPATION

IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF THE WEST. IRELAND'S NEUTRALITY IS A POLITICAL TOUCHSTONE WHICH NO IRISH POLITICAL PARTY CAN IGNORE. AT BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY LEVELS, HOWEVER, THE IRISH ARE FULLY AWARE OF THEIR ISOLATED POSITION AS THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE COMMON MARKET NOT A MEMBER OF NATO. THEY ALSO KNOW OF THE COMMON MARKET'S INCREASING AWARENESS THAT THE DEVELOPING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS OF THE EC HAVE NO SECURITY INSTITUTIONS TO PROTECT THEM. I BELIEVE, AND SO DO OTHERS WITH WHOM I HAVE SPOKEN, THAT IRELAND WILL BE OBLIGED IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO SOME SORT OF EC SECURITY CONSULTATIONS AND PERHAPS EVEN MILITARY COOPERATION (ALTHOUGH

THIS IS FARTHER DOWN THE PIKE).

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00526 151727Z

4. I HAVE A MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN WICH INVOLVES THE PARA-MILITARY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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PROBLEMS IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND. WITH THE COLLAPSE OF THE CONVENTION

IN THE NORTH, THE POLITICAL SITUATION THERE IS AS COMPLICATED AND
AS VOLATILE AS IT HAS BEEN AT ANY TIME IN RECENT YEARS. THE SITUATION

COULD CONCEIVABLY DEGENERATE AT ANY TIME AND, IF THIS HAPPENS, IT
WOULD LIKELY INVOLVE THE MILITARY IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND. IN
TERMS OF BORDER PATROLS AND CROSS-BORDER LIAISON, IT ALREADY DOES.
OUR DATT KEEPS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE IRISH MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.
I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THAT WITH EUROPE'S MOST BLOODY CONFLICT
TAKING PLACE ON THIS ISLAND, AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF TWO FRIENDS
OF THE U.S. INVOLVED, THAT WE SHOULD NOT HAVE A MILITARY PRESENCE
HERE.
CURLEY

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